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Even Dead Heroes Are Secret Behind Agency's Pristine Walls

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Langley, Va. — The headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency, at first glance, does not look mysterious or sinister.

It is eight stories of modernistic glass and concrete, apparently much like any other office building, set on 140 acres tranquil enough to be a college campus.

A visitor with an appointment has no difficulty getting past the main gate, and a taxicab is permitted to travel unchallenged to the main entrance, where the glass doors are unattended.

Once inside the \$46 million complex, just eight miles from the White House, there are telltale signs of the unusual nature of the business conducted from here, grim reminders of a danger-tinted twilight world.

Strands of barbed wire atop the chain link fence. Notices banning firearms, ammunition, cameras and recording devices from the premises. Thirty-five stars chiseled into the marble wall just inside the front door.

Beneath the stars is a small glass case containing a ledger. The ledger also is inscribed with 35 stars in entries dating back to 1951. Each star represents a CIA agent killed in action.

Only 17 of the stars, however, have names listed next to them. Although the identities of the other 18 are known, they remain anonymous in death for unspecified security reasons.

Just past the stars and the CIA seal set into the floor is a guard who inspects bags and briefcases. To the guard's left are four lanes providing entry to offices. The lanes are electronically controlled. CIA employees must insert identification passes — complete with photos — into scanning devices. The device "reads" the pass, then raises a striped wooden arm — a miniature version of the barriers found in parking garages — to permit access.

To the right is a large, pastel-colored lobby decorated with modern art and a reception desk. Off to one side is a small sitting room served by a key-operated elevator. The elevator lifts visitors to the seventh floor offices of the director of central intelligence, Adm. Stansfield Turner.

Turner, wearing a multi-colored cardigan sweater, works out of a beige-carpeted and paneled office. It is not large by Washington standards. At one end of the room, a tan writing board flanks a mahogany Chippendale table, here Turner receives visitors. Around the table are six armchairs upholstered in blue velvet.

A door opens and a waiter wearing a yellow-and-black jacket wheels in a cart laden with silver coffee and tea services. The beverages are served in cups bearing the CIA seal. The agency has its own china ("It's called Formosa," one man said).

Not many outsiders make it up to Turner's offices. But the super-secret spy agency is planning to open part of its antiseptic gray honeycomb to tourists to help improve the CIA's tarnished image.

The tours have not begun yet though they were announced in the spring. The delay is blamed on opposition from agents who fear they may be recognized by neighbors or acquaintances who presently do not know they work for the CIA.

There is little chance when the tours do start, tourists will see anything more than a carefully-selected portion of the nation's espionage nerve center. Indeed, vast reaches of the headquarters will continue to be off limits even to many CIA employes. While all workers — including Turner's waiter and the agency's charwomen — have secret clearances, these are not high enough to gain access to the store-rooms of secrets.

"I think the whole ethos of this place is more security-minded than any-

where I've ever been," said Turner.

The "security minded" atmosphere is evident everywhere. In the personnel notices posted on blackboards offering items for sale and signed only with first names and telephone extension numbers. In the security check sheets attached to doors of offices. In the agency telephone book, which is itself a "classified" document. And in the service medals locked in safes. These have been earned by agents who cannot take them out of the building for security reasons.

Still, what tourists will see should provide mild titillation.